

Over the years I have worked as a journalist in print and television, as well as a comedy writer, screenwriter and music supervisor on films. Over the years I have watched as the options and quality available for consumers has degenerated. In the music industry, the huge conglomerates have swallowed up many independents, which has led to monotony on radio, inferior products and ironically has contributed to widespread financial problems even among the majors. Ditto with the networks, which are now co-opting cable. When I began working at ABC Closeup Documentaries in the early 80's, it was still an exciting place which welcomed indie free-lancers, many of whom have gone to great success. Then, the docs, not matter how varied the subject, began to become more and more formulaic and finally the whole department was canned altogether. There's a hunger for quality material, but it's increasingly hard to find it without traveling far, far outside the mainstream. That is truly sad. And, unbelievably, just as one thought it couldn't get worse, along come these new dangerous proposals.